

„Presseinformation



Project "Culture Capital Heidelberg 2030":

Michel Maugé Supports "Kultur für Europa" in Its Bid for European Capital of Culture

- **Lecture and symphony concert in Heidelberg**
- **Part of the "Young European Music Festival" 2026**Vortrag und Sinfoniekonzert in Heidelberg**

Heidelberg, September 2026 – **Heidelberg's bid to become European Capital of Culture 2030 has gained a new supporter. At the invitation of the association "Kultur für Europa," Michel Maugé — founder of the European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA) — will present his European youth project in Heidelberg on September 11, 2026. The presentation will be followed by an EYOA symphony concert featuring works by Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, and Beethoven. The concert is part of the "Young European Music Festival 2026," which includes a total of seven concerts across the metropolitan region.**

At the invitation of the Heidelberg-based association "Kultur für Europa," Michel Maugé — founder of the EYOA and former long-time managing director of m:con – mannheim:congress GmbH — will present his European youth project on September 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Musik- und Singschule Heidelberg. Maugé's initiative brings together highly talented young musicians from across Europe each year. Within just a few days, they develop a full concert program together, experiencing Europe firsthand through the shared practice of music-making. The lecture will be followed by a symphony concert by the Young European Symphony Orchestra in the Brahms-Saal of the Musik- und Singschule. As part of the "Young European Music Festival 2026," the event is intended as a contribution to Heidelberg's bid for European Capital of Culture 2030.

The musical highlight of the evening is the symphony concert by the Young European Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jan-Paul Reinke — long-time conductor of the Stamitz

Orchestra and the Mannheim Municipal Youth Orchestra. The program brings together three works from different eras and expressive worlds: the Concert Overture in C major by Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35 — performed by this year's SINFONIMA Competition prize-winner, Hannes Wagner — and Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93. Wagner plays a violin by Giovanni Battista Rogeri (1678), generously provided to him by the SINFONIMA Foundation of Mannheimer Versicherung.

Kultur für Europa" – Heidelberg's Bid for 2030

The association "Kultur für Europa" supports Heidelberg's and the Rhine-Neckar metropolitan region's bid to become European Capital of Culture through lectures, discussion formats, and cultural events. Its goal is to connect stakeholders from culture, academia, business, and civil society, making the European idea tangible. One of the association's key figures is Manfred Lautenschläger, co-founder of the financial services provider MLP and founder of the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation. The association deliberately creates platforms where Europe is not just discussed, but actively experienced.

Maugé: Europe in Practice

Maugé has embodied the European cultural idea for many years. Born in France, he founded the EYOA in 2019 out of the conviction that cultural collaboration is a stronger unifying force than any political agenda. Since then, he has brought around 80 young musicians from various European countries to Mannheim each year. In an intensive ten-day bootcamp, participants meet for the first time, work together, and develop a demanding concert program in a remarkably short period, which is then performed across the metropolitan region.

The Young European Music Festival 2026

From September 9 to 12, the EYOA presents the "Young European Music Festival 2026" with seven concerts in Schwetzingen, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, Heidelberg, and Worms. For the first time, four ensembles will perform: the Young European Symphony Orchestra, a string quartet, a wind quintet, and the newly formed Big Band Jazz Orchestra under the direction of acclaimed trumpeter and composer Thomas Siffling. The highlight is the European Gala Concert on September 12 at the Rosengarten Mannheim.

About the European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA)

Funded exclusively through private donations, the European Youth Orchestra Academy (EYOA) is a European youth music project based in Mannheim — inspired by the city's historic legacy as home of the Mannheim School. Since 2019, it has brought together approximately 50 to 80 young musicians between the ages of 14 and 18 from across Europe each year, totaling around 400 young people to date. Its mission is to foster cultural exchange, musical excellence, and European values across national borders. Participants are selected by an international jury and develop an ambitious concert program during a ten-day intensive bootcamp, which is then performed at public venues throughout the region. EYOA stands as a musical statement for peace, diversity, collaboration, and European solidarity. It is supported by private members, donors, and regional partners, as well as the European Parliament, the City of Mannheim, and the Europa-Union Baden-Württemberg as official patrons. Additional key supporters include Jeunesses Musicales, the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Rotary Club Mannheim-Rhein-Neckar, and the SINFONIMA Foundation. Further information at www.eyoa.de

„Young European Music Festival 2026“

– Concert Dates and Venues Overview

Ticket service: www.eyoa.de

Date	Event	Ensemble	Venue
Wed, Sep 9, 2026	Chamber Concert	Young European Chamber Music (String Quartet & Wind Quintet)	Mozartsaal, Schwetzingen Palace, 8:00 PM, €29
Thu, Sep 10, 2026	Family Concert / Open Rehearsal	Young European Symphony Orchestra	Börsensaal, Municipal Music School Mannheim, 3:30 PM, Free admission
Thu, Sep 10, 2026	Jazz Concert	Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	BASF Gesellschaftshaus, Ludwigshafen, 8:00 PM, €29
Thu, Sep 10, 2026	Chamber Concert	Young European Chamber Music (String Quartet & Wind Quintet)	Kunsthalle Mannheim, 8:00 PM, €29
Fri, Sep 11, 2026	Symphony Concert	Young European Symphony Orchestra	Brahms Hall, Municipal Music School Heidelberg, 7:30 PM, €38
Fri, Sep 11, 2026	Jazz Concert (Open Air)	Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	Andreasstift, Worms, 8:00 PM, €30
Sat, Sep 12, 2026	European Gala Concert	Young European Symphony Orchestra & Young European Big Band Jazz Orchestra	Musensaal, Rosengarten Mannheim, 8:00 PM, from €45

„Young European Music Festival 2026“

– Full Concert Program

Ticket service: www.eyoa.de

Young European Symphony Orchestra

- Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn: Concert Overture in C major
- Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35 (Soloist: Hannes Wagner, 2026 SINFONIMA Competition Prize-Winner)
- Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 8 in F major, Op. 93

Conductor/director: Jan-Paul Reinke

Young European Chamber Music

String Quartet

- Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga: String Quartet No. 1
- Dmitri Shostakovich: String Quartet No. 8, Op. 110

Director: Anna Erdmann-Schiegnitz

Wind Quintet

- Jacques Ibert: 3 Pièces Brèves
- Jean Françaix: Wind Quintet No. 1

Director: Bernd Ballreich

Young European Big Band Jazz Ensemble

- Thomas Siffling: Anticipation (arr. Chris Perschke)
- Sammy Nestico: Basie – Straight Ahead
- Peter Herbolzheimer: Blues in Latin
- Duke Ellington: C Jam Blues (arr. Dave Wolpe)
- Gordon Goodwin: Count Bubba
- Neal Hefti: Cute
- Cole Porter: Easy to Love (arr. Sammy Nestico)
- Duke Ellington: In a Mellow Tone (arr. Oliver Nelson)
- Sammy Nestico: It's Oh, So Nice
- Neal Hefti: Li'l Darlin'
- Jason Marshall: Ms. Garvey, Ms. Garvey!!
- Michel Camilo: One More Once (arr. Ed Gent / D. Bacon)
- Chick Corea: Spain (arr. Paul Jennings)
- W. C. Handy: St. Louis Blues (arr. Sammy Nestico)
- Sammy Nestico: The Queen Bee
- Bert Joris: Walking Tiptoe

Director: Thomas Siffling